



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/ICEF/ASIA/SR.1-5/Corrigendum
11 November 1977

ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING ON THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN ASIA
WITH EMPHASIS ON BASIC SERVICES

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE 1st TO 5th MEETINGS

Held at the International Convention Center, Manila,
from 17 to 19 May 1977

Corrigendum

This corrigendum contains delegation and Secretariat corrections to the English text of the summary records of the Special Meeting on the Situation of Children in Asia with Emphasis on Basic Services held from 17 to 19 May 1977 (E/ICEF/ASIA/SR.1-5).

With the issuance of this corrigendum, the records of the above-mentioned meetings may be considered final.

1st meeting

Page 1

The heading should read:

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING ON THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN ASIA
WITH EMPHASIS ON BASIC SERVICES

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Held at the International Convention Center, Manila,
on Tuesday, 17 May 1977, at 2.30 p.m.

Temporary Chairman: Dr. Antonio ORDÓÑEZ-PLAJA (Chairman of the Board)

Chairman: Mrs. ALDABA-LIM (Philippines)

Paragraphs 2 and 4

The speaker's name should read Dr. ORDÓÑEZ-PLAJA

Paragraph 7

Line 1: after The CHAIRMAN insert expressed her appreciation and

Line 2: for Mr. Hasan (Pakistan) read Dr. Hasan (Pakistan)

Paragraph 8, line 1

For Mr. Hasan (Pakistan) read Dr. Hasan (Pakistan)

After paragraph 17 add the following paragraph:

17a. The CHAIRMAN said that the presentation of each paper would be followed by questions of clarification.

Page 6

Lines 5 and 6 should read:

(b) "FACE TO FACE WITH POVERTY: THE MOBILE CRECHES" (E/ICEF/ASIA/5) BY MS. MEERA MAHADEVAN (INDIA)

Paragraph 28, line 2

For and a direct effect read had a direct effect

Paragraph 36, line 2

For being a healthy environment read provide a healthy environment

2nd meeting

Paragraph 1, line 11

For Mr. Myong read Mr. Hwang

Paragraph 3, line 2

For slum-swellers read slum-dwellers

Paragraph 7

Replace the third to seventh sentences by the following text:

As a result of the many changes that had taken place, the resources of the voluntary agencies were drying up. Many of the child welfare programmes were best carried out

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by voluntary agencies. India considered that voluntary efforts should be given the necessary support. In India two important schemes for children were being implemented through voluntary agencies. They were the scheme for the care and protection of destitute children and the provision of crèches to the children of working and ailing women, both of which were run by voluntary organizations and 90 per cent of which were funded by the Government.

Paragraph 8

Replace the second sentence by the following text:

In four of India's urban slums, for example, the Integrated Child Development Services Project was being implemented; it included, in addition to child nutrition, other child welfare services such as non-formal pre-school education, basic health services and functional literacy for mothers.

Paragraph 11, line 1

For Mr. Myong read Mr. Hwang

Paragraph 25, line 4

For the Republican régime read the new Republican régime

Paragraph 26, line 2

For (E/ICEF/ASIA/SR.6) read (E/ICEF/ASIA/6)

Paragraph 29, last line

For cold chair read cold chain

Between paragraphs 31 and 33 insert the following text:

32. Dr. RAM said the personnel for the project included certain staff who were already working, namely the dais, who had been carrying out their activities in the villages for several generations, and local village health aides, who seconded the nurse midwives assigned to the project. The figures submitted were based on the results of an initial inquiry dealing with 10 per cent of the population. With regard to vaccines, they were supplied free of charge by the Government and their cost was therefore not included in the expenses for medicines.

3rd meeting

Page 2, line 6

The author's name should read Mr. A. T. ARIYARATNE (SRI LANKA)

Paragraph 36, line 8

For which was not clearly demonstrated read which was clearly demonstrated

Paragraph 42

Line 1: the speaker's name should read Dr. THAPA (Nepal)

Line 5: For according to her calculations read according to the population magnitude

At the end of the paragraph, add the following text:

to deliver basic health services effectively to the maximum number of people

Paragraph 43, line 5

Replace the last phrase by the following text:

as malaria had still not been eradicated in the area covered by the project.

Paragraph 44

Replace the last sentence by the following text:

It was surely preferable for female workers to carry out such activities related to female family planning methods such as pills, tubectomy, etc.

Paragraph 45

At the end of the paragraph, add the following text:

especially in the absence of information from a control area of a similar socio-economic state of development. That was important in view of the need to convince the vertical programme managers, for without it the model could not be reproduced on a national scale.

Paragraph 46

Line 2: for Dais read dais

Replace the second sentence by the following text:

After all, the traditional birth attendants were already supported by the community by cash payment or commodities, so why should the government sector be unnecessarily burdened?

Paragraph 48

At the end of the paragraph, add the following text:

Each village Panchayat of about 2,000 to 4,000 inhabitants recruited a full-time multipurpose village health worker, trained by the Ministry of Health to carry out basic health services such as family planning, immunization, nutrition, first aid, training of traditional birth attendants, etc. That had been fully incorporated into Nepal's long-term health plan as the priority programme.

Paragraph 49, line 3

For six read 12

Paragraphs 51 and 52

Replace the paragraphs by the following text:

51. Nepal was grateful to UNICEF for supporting the activities of the integrated basic health service. It was especially grateful to UNICEF for supporting the expanded immunization programme (EPI) which had been jointly developed by national as well as international experts such as WHO, USAID and UNICEF. That programme was now being implemented in accordance with jointly approved EPI procedures. However, the representative of Nepal recalled that while implementing that expanded immunization programme in six integrated districts of Nepal, UNICEF had been initially somewhat reluctant to provide disposable syringes for the DPT vaccination programme as recommended by the jointly developed EPI programme. However, they had kindly supported Nepal's EPI mass vaccination programme for DPT, with disposable syringes for children under five. She urged the multilateral and bilateral donor agencies to be more sympathetic to the jointly agreed basic technologies such as disposable syringes, cold chain equipment, vaccines etc., which were critical factors in ensuring simple, basic but effective services to the maximum number of children and so enabling them to survive the health hazards of early childhood.

52. Management of a complicated project such as the integrated health programme to meet the technical standards of each concerned vertical health programme, such as family planning and malaria, etc., was a complex task technically as well as administratively. Therefore a more sympathetic approach was required from multilateral and bilateral agencies in assisting the integrated health programme. For instance, for UNICEF to demand a separate accounting system for cash grants, in addition to Government accounting procedures, complicated the management further. These bureaucratic procedures diluted many useful programmes. She therefore appealed to UNICEF to reconsider its demand for a separate accounting system and to integrate it with the systems of concerned Governments and so rely on the report of the Auditor General of each respective Government. That would greatly enhance the management of integrated basic service.

4th meeting

Paragraph 12

Replace the first sentence by the following text:

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12. The experiment carried out by Dr. Ram in India was most instructive since, by making use of existing resources and staff, he had managed to deliver health services to previously unserved rural populations.

Paragraph 15

Replace the last sentence by the following text:

It would also be interesting to learn how those problems - which were relevant to the two items already considered as well as the next item - would be dealt with in practice.

Paragraph 29

Replace the first sentence by the following text:

29. Secondly, be deciding to give top priority to primary health care, WHO and UNICEF were putting their trust in auxiliary health personnel, indigenous midwives and other village workers.

Paragraph 30

Line 1: for public health care read primary health care achieved

Line 2: for launch read initiate

Paragraph 31

Replace the last sentence by the following text:

They were collaborating with the Indian Government in embarking upon the local production of vaccines against some of those communicable diseases and to establish quality-control laboratories.

Paragraph 36

Line 4: for charity read voluntary

Lines 16 and 17: for had been the subject of case studies read had been one of the case studies

Lines 18 and 19: after field offices delete were constantly pursuing the matter and

Paragraph 38

Line 2: for success read community support

Line 5: for it had become clear read it had been said

/...

Replace the fifth sentence by the following text:

In fact, in one case in 20, the District Representative was obliged to question the site selected.

Paragraph 39, line 5

For 2,000,000 wells read 200,000 wells over the last several years

Paragraph 40, line 3

For skilled midwives read fully trained midwives

Paragraph 43, line 1

The author's name should read Governor Harun Zain

Paragraph 45, line 3

For dealing with read improving

5th meeting

Paragraph 6

Replace the paragraph by the following text:

6. Mr. HOAM (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam) said that before a member of his delegation, who was a specialist on the subject, introduced the working paper of the Central Committee for the Protection of Mother and Child of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (E/ICEF/ASIA/12), he would like to make a few comments on his Government's general policy with regard to children, thus showing the context in which that paper had been prepared. As a result of more than a century of colonial domination and 30 years of almost uninterrupted warfare Viet Nam was, from the economic standpoint, a poor and backward developing country. Nevertheless, his Government, even during the war years, had consistently attached great importance to basic services for children, and although much remained to be done, its efforts to promote child welfare and education had produced encouraging results. Children represented the future of the country and because of their physical vulnerability required special care; indeed, children in Viet Nam were the most privileged population group. Furthermore, in accordance with State policy, it was the duty of every citizen to help ensure that children were adequately nourished and educated. Assistance provided by the population in the form of labour and material had often made it possible to overcome difficulties caused by a lack of funds or equipment. The Government also wanted to ensure that children benefited from the basic services appropriate to their respective age groups. For instance, every child from the age of two months to three years should, ideally, have a place in a crèche, and every child three to six years of age should attend a nursery school; efforts were being directed towards those goals.

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Paragraph 7

Line 3: for 3-6 read 3-15

Line 4: for Central Council read Central Committee

Paragraph 11

Replace the paragraph by the following text:

11. Mrs. TAM (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam) replied that the figures referred to children under one year of age.

Paragraph 12

Replace the paragraph by the following text:

12. With respect to immunization, children were vaccinated yearly against poliomyelitis, whooping cough and measles. Poliomyelitis had been basically eradicated since 1959. All newborn babies were required to be vaccinated, including the BCG vaccination. Crèche staff should undergo medical examination once or twice every year.

Paragraph 14

Replace the last sentence by the following text:

Depending on the size of the crèches, the services of assistant physicians and doctors were available.

Paragraph 16

Line 2: for 6-12 read 2-12

At the end of the paragraph, add the following text:

Studies were being conducted on how to obtain milk from those mothers for their children, because in Viet Nam mothers wanted to breast-feed their babies.

Paragraphs 18 and 19

Replace these paragraphs by the following text:

18. Mrs. TAM (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam) replied that the Central Committee for the Protection of Mother and Child was a government department responsible for the study of child protection policy and the presentation of that policy to the Council of State; the organization, management, direction and implementation of guidelines, policies and activities related to the protection of children; scientific research on the rearing and education of children; diffusion of child rearing and education techniques to mothers and the population generally. Major programmes and activities were always discussed with the Women's Association and

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after arriving at a consensus, the Association motivated its members to implement them through such activities as, for example, constructing, equipping and supply supplying crèches and planting fruit trees. The Association always gave its opinions to the Central Committee for the Protection of Mother and Child on all matters related to policies concerning children.

19. In reply to a question from Dr. Zahra (World Health Organization) related to family health, she indicated that, except in the south where the primary health care network had not yet been fully developed, every village now had a communal health centre, which included a pediatric unit responsible for the immunization and treatment of children. In cities, an individual health follow-up booklet was issued for each baby immediately after delivery. Children in the home were covered by the communal health centre and those in crèches were cared for by the nurses and crèche staff. Immediately after birth, babies had to be registered at the communal health centre, where they underwent periodic examinations; they also received home treatment in cases of sickness not requiring hospitalization.

Paragraph 22, line 2

For E/ICEF/ASIA/SR.2 read E/ICEF/ASIA/2

Paragraph 30

After the first sentence insert the following text:

To alleviate poverty, services had to be provided within easy reach of the rural poor. Their human skills would have to be upgraded to enable them to take full advantage of those services, otherwise the services would fail to filter down to them and, like the Green Revolution, would benefit others instead of the poor. The inadequacy of the services was accentuated by the lack of human skills in the rural poor. Unfortunately, services for the poor organized through government agencies in developing countries were usually inadequate, inefficient and irresponsible. Since UNICEF suffered from the handicap of having to channel its activities, by and large, through government agencies, it could not produce the desired results. It should, therefore, take a lead in integrating the activities of the United Nations family and the other international development agencies, with a view to impressing upon the Governments of developing countries the absolute necessity of reorganizing government services for the poor.

Paragraph 35, line 1

The speaker's name should read Sir Bernard LEDWIDGE (United Kingdom)
